

1376 The C A S E

OF

William Stewart, *the Present Garbler for the City of London, Humbly Offer'd to the Honourable the House of Commons.*

**T**H A T Time out of Mind, there hath been an Office in the City of *London* for the Garbling of *Spices, Drugs* and other Merchandizes, with Usual Fees, And that, Confirmed by the Statute of King *James I.* to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the said City.

THAT the Present Officer, UNDER SUCH TITLE, hath a Lease thereof for 61 Years, from *Anno 1686*, if he so long Live, for which he Paid a Fine of 976 *l. 10 s.* to the then Lord Mayor, and Renders 300 *l. per Annum* Rent to the City, and all Taxes, which Amounts to 70 *l. per Annum*, which Lease hath been Confirmed to him by the Act of Parliament *Restoring the City's Charter.*

THAT His Behaviour since his Admission hath been free from any Just Cause of Complaint; And that he never Prosecuted any but upon Necessity, when they bid open Defiance to the Law, having no other Aim but to induce their Compliance with the Law, always Compounding for less than his Charges.

THAT He is not concerned directly or indirectly in any of the Prosecutions now Complained of, except only One, for *Turmerick*, which was Try'd last *November*, Value 74 *l. 10 s.* which notwithstanding the Defendants Obstinacy to a Tryal, The Garbler with the Licence of the *Attorney General* and *Court of Exchequer*, Compounded for less than his Charges.

THAT if the Bill now Brought in should Pass, for leaving the Office without the Law to Support it, and every One at Liberty to Garble their Goods by the Officer, or not, as they think fit; It will necessarily follow, That the Office will become of no Publick Use or Value.

*It is therefore humbly Pray'd, This Honourable House will have Regard to the Free-hold of the Present Officer, and that if the said Statute of King James I. shall be thought fit to be Repealed or altered, This Honourable House will Please to make such Sutable Provision for the said Officer's Recompence, Answerable to his present Interest, as in their Great Wisdom shall be thought meet.*

*Please note, his present Interest is 300 <sup>pounds</sup> per Annum for Life (less of all Charges)*